



DOVER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1971

J.A. BYRNE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.,

Medical Officer of Health

Health Department,
86 Maison Dieu Road,
Dover.



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DOVER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY
HEALTH COMMITTEE

To 1st June, 1971

His Worship the Mayor

(Alderman W.T. Muge.)

Chairman

Councillor H.J. Dennard

Members

Alderman M. Grinsted	Councillor C.O. Banger
Councillor D.F. Clayton	Councillor R.L. Eckhoff
Councillor E.J. Hadley	Councillor R.G. Lock
Councillor R.G. Longman	Councillor W. Ridgway
Councillor R.T.C.R. Wakefield	

From 1st June, 1971

Chairman

His Worship the Mayor

(Councillor R.G. Lock.)

Members

Alderman M. Grinsted	Alderman W.T. Muge
Councillor D.F. Clayton	Councillor R.L. Eckhoff
Councillor E.J. Hadley	Councillor M. Hart
Councillor R.C. Longman	Councillor P.T. Mee
Councillor H.E. Morison	Councillor W. Ridgway
Councillor J.J. Watson	

Health Department,
86 Maison Dieu Road,
Dover.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Dover
acting as the Port Health Authority of the Port of Dover:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure as Port Medical Officer of Health to present my report on the work of the Department during 1971. The report is presented in the form prescribed by the revised Form Port 20 issued by the Department of Health and Social Security and superseding the Department's previous directions in force since 1952.

No serious difficulties presented during the year although staffing, particularly of the Port Health Inspectorate, had its problems: to maintain the full twenty-four hour cover for the Port commitments, it is necessary to have four Inspectors permanently on rota and staff holidays and sickness necessitate replacement from District personnel. Fortunately suitable arrangements were finalised with the Dover Harbour Board whereby the Board Police were appointed Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Acts thus relieving the Departmental staff of duties under the Acts which might well have seriously interfered with their principal function under the Imported Food and Ships Regulations. I am grateful to the Dover Harbour Board for their co-operation and acknowledge the valuable work undertaken by the Police personnel in carrying out so assiduously the duties which are the responsibility of the Authority under the Acts. Six offences in respect of the illegal importation of cats and dogs were successfully prosecuted.

Because of the incidence of cholera in Spain and Portugal during the latter part of the year it became necessary to institute surveillance procedure in respect of travellers from the infected area arriving within the five-days' incubation period. Although this procedure implies notification to the health authority at the traveller's place of destination, this action is often valueless because of the fact that many passengers on arrival at Dover will have already been travelling for two of the five days' incubation period, and of course the five day week operated by the receiving authorities delays in some cases any useful action by them. Passengers were however advised during voyage and on arrival that they were from a declared cholera infected area and that any symptoms of illness should be referred to their doctors at once: this I am certain will have proved as equally effective as other prescribed means in bringing to notice or under control any imported case.

I have great pleasure in recording my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance received from H.M. Customs and Immigration Authorities, Officers of the Dover Harbour Board and British Railways, Geo. Hammond & Co. (Shipping) Ltd. and other importing Agents, all concerned in the organisation and running of this large and ever expanding complex, the Port of Dover - so important to the prosperity of our town.

My thanks, needless to say, are also due to the staff of this Department, to my Deputy, the Nurses and Inspectors, also to the clerical staff who equally played their part in the smooth running of the Port Health Department, particularly at the time of the "cholera incident" when it fell to them to notify the destination addresses of some 1,000 home-coming travellers from the local infected areas in Spain and Portugal.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant

J.A. BYRNE,

Medical Officer of Health

17th March, 1972

SECTION I
Officers and Staff
Clerk to the Authority
Ian G. Gill

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments Held
Dr. J.A. Byrne	Medical Officer of Health and Medical Inspector of Aliens	27th February, 1969 (Deputy Medical Officer of Health during period 9th July 1962 - 26th February, 1969)	M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.	Medical Officer of Health Borough of Dover Dover Rural District Elham Rural District Medical Officer, Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dover
Dr. J.Ll.T. Graham	Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Medical Inspector of Aliens	2nd June, 1969	L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I., L.M.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health. As above
Mrs. A.L. Brothwell	Port and Aliens Nurse	18th April, 1966	S.R.N.	
Mrs. J. Burgess	Port and Aliens Nurse	1st October, 1970	S.E.N.	
Mrs. F.M. Lanoon	Port and Aliens Nurse	1st October, 1970	S.E.N.	
Mrs. B. Slater	Port and Aliens Nurse	1st October, 1970	S.R.N.	
Mr. B.C. Middlebrook	Chief Port Health and Food Inspector	1st February, 1956	Cert. S.I.J.B. Cert. Meat and Food Inspec- tion	Chief Public Health Inspector Borough of Dover
Mr. P.A. Slater	Port Health and Food Inspector	1st February, 1953	Cert. S.I.J.B. Cert. Meat and Food Inspec- tion	District Public Health Inspector, Borough of Dover

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments Held
Mr. V.E. Carr	Port Health and Food Inspector	1st February, 1956	Cert. S.I.J.B.	District Public Health Inspector, Borough of Dover
Mr. S.W.M. Padfield	Port Health and Food Inspector	1st August, 1968	Dip. P.H.I.E.B.	District Public Health Inspector, Borough of Dover
Mr. G.M. Howitt	Port Health and Food Inspector	13th January, 1969	Cert. P.H.I.E.B. Cert. Meat and Food Inspection	District Public Health Inspector, Borough of Dover
Mr. P.A. Barton	Port Health and Food Inspector	1st May, 1970	Dip. P.H.I.E.B.	District Public Health Inspector, Borough of Dover
Mr. A.J. Longley	Port Health and Food Inspector	1st May, 1970	Dip. P.H.I.E.B.	District Public Health Inspector, Borough of Dover
Mr. R.J. Cork	Port Health and Food Inspector	1st August, 1970	Dip. P.H.I.E.B.	District Public Health Inspector, Borough of Dover

Address of Medical Officer of Health: Health Department, 86 Maison Dieu Road, Dover. Telephone Dover 2145/2151

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEARTABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	11,675	14,607,363	* 21	111	33
Coast-wise	411	166,796	-	8	-
Total	12,086	14,774,159	21	119	33

*Excluding vessels from cross-channel ports
2331 Hovercraft arrivals were also recorded

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEARTABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.....	(Number of Passengers INWARDS	2,601,936
	(Number of Passengers OUTWARDS	2,632,490
CARGO TRAFFIC	(Principal IMPORTS	General merchandise, wines, foodstuffs, coal and timber.
	(Principal EXPORTS	Cars and general merchandise.
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which Ships Arrive.	(North African; European, Iberian; Scandinavian and Baltic.	

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

N I L

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SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY

1.(a) Source of Supply for the District:

The mains water supply for the district is now under the control of the Folkestone Water Company Ltd., which has taken over the Dover Corporation and part of the Mid-Kent Water Company undertakings.

(b) Source of Supply for Shipping:

With the exception of Berths 1, 2 and 3 at the Admiralty Pier, the whole of the water supply to shipping is from the Folkestone Water Co. Ltd. mains.

At the three berths indicated, six hydrants are available supplied from the British Railways private well in the Dover Priory Goods Yard; this supply can be supplemented if necessary from the Folkestone Water Company main.

2. Report of Tests for Contamination:

The mains water supply as delivered by the Folkestone Water Company Ltd. is under constant supervision, chemically and bacteriologically, by both the Company and this Authority, while the British Railways Medical services undertake the sampling from their Authority's vessels of the water as delivered from the private well supply. All results of routine sampling by the Water Undertaking and by the Railway Authority are communicated to the Medical Officer.

Apart from local contamination of tap fittings on one vessel, all samples were reported satisfactory.

3. Precaution taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes:

Owing to difficulties of sterilising hosepipes and fittings with chemical agents, hot water scrubbing and cleansing are carried out at weekly intervals. Periodic bacteriological sampling from hydrants carried out and from ships supplied.

4. Number and Sanitary Condition of Water Boats, and Powers of Control by the Authority:

NIL WATER BOATS

SECTION VI
PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1970

1. List of Infected Areas: (Regulation 6)

This list, amended weekly from reports received from the World Health Organisation, is maintained by the Medical Officer of Health and circulated weekly to H.M. Customs, the Pilot Services and the local Shipping Agents.

2. Radio Messages:

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district: (Regulation 13)

The District is not a declared radio transmitting port.

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon: (Regulation 14(1)(a) and (2))

The District is not a declared radio receiving port but radio messages from ships are on occasions received by North Foreland and Niteon Radio Stations. If from vessels requiring special attention, the messages are normally transmitted by telephone direct to the Port Medical Officer who takes whatever action is appropriate to the circumstances, the Customs and Immigration Authorities being notified as required.

3. Notification otherwise than by Radio: (Regulation 14(1)(b))

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and acting thereon:

Close liaison is maintained between the Port Medical Officer, the Harbour Authority, the Shipping Agents and operators and H.M. Customs. Provision is made for an inter-change of all information received regarding the arrival of ships from abroad and for co-ordinated action as required.

4. Mooring Stations: (Regulation 22 to 30)

Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations:

(a) For Ships "infected" or "suspected" as defined in Article 2 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1970, made by the Minister of Health.

The OUTER HARBOUR, inside the Breakwater.

(b) For all other ships which may be unhealthy within the meaning of the aforesaid Regulations:

Their place of mooring, discharge or loading.

The following Standing Direction giving exemption in certain cases from the requirements of Article 24 of the Regulations of 1952, repeated in the 1970 Regulations, was adopted on the 13th July, 1953:-

"Ships from infected areas reported otherwise All Clear, both during the voyage and on arrival, may proceed to their ordinary place of mooring, discharge or loading and be granted Pratique in modified form, the Port Medical Officer being informed as soon as possible."

5. Arrangements for:-

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox See Section VII).

Infectious Diseases Hospital,
Noahs Ark Road,
DOVER.

(under control of South East Kent Hospital Management Committee and clinical supervision of Medical Officer of Health)

(b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts:

Surveillance of contacts in case of the quarantinable diseases conducted from the Health Department within its area of jurisdiction; otherwise necessary follow-up is arranged through Health Authority at place to which contact is proceeding. Contacts in the case of non-quarantinable epidemic diseases are dealt with as found necessary having regard to the particular diseases involved.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles:

Infected quarters together with bedding and clothing disinfected with formalin spray or formaldehyde gas as required.

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district:

The River Hospitals,
(Long Reach)
DARTFORD
Kent

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews:

Ambulance of Canterbury City Council available on request.

Special ambulance crew provided by the same authority.

3. Name of smallpox consultant available:

Medical Officer,
The River Hospitals,
(Long Reach)
DARTFORD
Kent

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis for smallpox:

Central Public Health Laboratory,
Colindale Avenue,
Colindale,
LONDON, N.W.9.

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including inpatient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

A Special Clinic with a Doctor in attendance is held at Buckland Hospital on Tuesday and Thursday of each week at 10 a.m. (with the exception of the third Thursday of the month). Outside Clinic hours patients are referred to the Out-patients' Department, where routine treatment is available.

During 1971, the number of new patients attending from the high seas was 5: three were classified under gonorrhoea and two under other conditions.

Leaflets publicising these facilities are available for distribution.

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS, 1971

TABLE D

CATEGORY	DISEASE	Number of cases During the Year		Number of Ships Concerned
		Passenger	Crew	
Cases Landed from Ships from Foreign Ports	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1 (1)	1
	Typhoid Fever	1 (1)	-	1
	Influenza	1 (1)	-	1
	Infective Jaundice	2 (2)	1 (1)	3
	German Measles	1	-	1
	Gastro-enteritis	6 (2)	-	6
	P.U.O.	4 (4)	-	4
	Chicken Pox	2 (2)	1 (1)	3
	Erysipelas	1 (1)	-	1
	Measles	2	-	2
	D. & V.	8 (5)	-	6
	Suspected Food Poisoning	2	-	1
	Dysentery	-	2 (2)	2
	Rash	1 (1)	-	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships.	-	-	-	-

Twenty-four of the patients (as indicated by the figures in parentheses) were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The s. typhi infection which was confirmed by laboratory findings related to a Commonwealth detainee who did not divulge any information as to being unwell until over 24 hours after his arrival although it later transpired that he had been feeling unwell for some four days prior to that. The man was subsequently admitted to the Country, his movements and history having been notified to the health authority at his destination.

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SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No cases of malaria were reported during the year.

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR
PLAGUE

No measures were necessary during 1971.

In the event of finding plague-infected rats, vessels would be boomed off and fumigation of all compartments carried out.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats:

Trade of port consists chiefly of cross-channel traffic, vessels of which are subjected to half-yearly routine inspections in connection with the issue of the necessary certificates under Regulation 19 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1970.

Additionally, any evidence of the presence of rodents on board occurring in the interval would be immediately reported by the British Railways Authority.

Other vessels entering the port are subjected to routine inspection by the Port Health Inspectors.

Port of Dover approved and designated for the issue of both Deratting and Deratting Exemption Certificates under Regulation 19 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1970.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year:

Although no action was necessary during 1971 any rats found on ships would be sent for necessary examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor:

Deratting of ships would if found to be necessary be carried out by specialist firm using hydrogen cyanide gas under direction of Port Health Inspectors; in view of infrequency of need for this operation no specialist firm is retained under contract.

Minor infections dealt with by Local Authority's staff by routine poisoning methods.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships:

No active measures required during 1971. Ships operating from the port effectively maintained.

TABLE E

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Category:	Number:
Black rats	NIL RETURN
Brown rats	
Species not known	
Sent for examination	
Infected with plague	

Apart from localised and sporadic minor brown rat infestations, principally in the Eastern Docks, the Port area was reported to be comparatively rat-free.

TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING
THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

8

No. of Deratting Certificates issued				No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.	Total Certificates issued.
After fumigation with H.C.N. Other fumi- gant (State method)	After trap- ping	After poi- soning	Total		
1. 2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
-	-	-	-	37	37

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Nature and number of Inspections (including re-inspections)	Notices served		Result of Serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
BRITISH VESSELS 48	-	-	-
FOREIGN VESSELS 79	-	-	-
TOTAL 127	-	-	-

No major nuisances were reported during the year and, apart from measures to treat minor infestations (cockroaches etc.), no action was necessary.

SECTION XIV

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948:

There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS AND COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS

1. List of Medical Inspectors holding Warrants of Appointment at 31st December:

Medical Officer of Health (Dr. J.A. Byrne)
Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Dr. J.L.L.T. Graham)
Dr. W. Allen
Dr. G.L. Brocklehurst
Dr. J. Brown
Dr. P.H. Garrard
Dr. W. Irvine
Dr. E.T. Manley
Dr. P. Ronchetti
Dr. A.K. Thomas

2. List of other staff engaged on this work:

Aliens' Nurses:- Mrs. A.L. Brothwell, S.R.N.
Mrs. J. Burgess, S.E.N.
Mrs. F.M. Lamoore, S.E.N.
Mrs. B. Slater, S.R.N.

Sessional Relief Nurses:- Mrs. W.M. Betts, S.E.N.
Mrs. H.F. Kelt, S.E.N.
Miss L.A. Wells, S.E.N.

3. Organisation of Work:

The medical inspection of aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants is under the administration and general direction of the Medical Officer of Health who holds a Warrant of Appointment as Medical Inspector, as does the Deputy Medical Officer of Health. To afford full cover eight other doctors are similarly appointed; of these three are employed as reliefs the year round, one during the summer season only, while the other four are prepared to undertake emergency relief sessions only.

With the increased calls on the nursing staff as a result of the growing traffic, particularly through the Eastern Docks, it was considered advisable to increase the establishment of full-time nurses to four, and this proposal received the approval of the Department of Health and Social Security to operate with effect from 'st October, 1971. It still remains necessary of course to engage sessional relief staff throughout the year and particularly in the summer months.

There are three passenger landing terminals, viz;

Marine Station: Services arrive from Calais and Ostend with by far the greater proportion of the foot passenger traffic; boat arrivals are scheduled regularly throughout the year at 1340 and 1810 from Ostend and at 1730 from Calais, supplemented at Bank Holidays and in the summer season by additional Ostend relief arrivals. These are "attendance" services, i.e. they are attended by both a medical officer and a nurse as a routine. An additional service from Ostend in the summer months and arriving at 0430 hours is regarded as an "on call" service, i.e. attended by a qualified nurse only, the medical officer being "on call".

Ferry Dock: The night train ferry sleeper, between London and Paris, arrives throughout the year at 0600 hours and is attended as a routine "on call" service by the duty nurse.

Eastern Docks: Car Ferry services from Boulogne, Calais, Ostend and Zeebrugge arrive regularly throughout the twenty-four hour period in the summer season but less frequently during the winter months. The terminal caters principally for car passenger traffic and all boat arrivals are designated "on call" services. Nursing attendance is provided from 0500 hours to midnight during the period October to April and for the full twenty-four hour period from May to September. There is in operation a frequent Hovercraft service between Dover and Boulogne from this terminal but experience has so far shown that the service makes no great demands on the aliens medical inspection organisation.

4. Nature and Amount of Aliens Traffic:

Number of aliens arriving at the Port and of those seen by the Medical Inspector:-

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Total Aliens:</u>	<u>Medically Examined:</u>	<u>Reports issued:</u>
1969	821,837	6,020	45
1970	958,666	5,821	47
1971	1,014,434	4,018	31

Categories in which aliens were examined:

1. Holding Ministry of Labour Permits	3,094
2. Intending to make their home in the United Kingdom ..	773
3. Visitors	105
4. Business Visitors	3
5. Returning Residents	42
6. Aliens in transit	1
7. Other	-
<hr/>	
Total	<u>4,018</u>

The certificates issued to the Immigration Officer numbered 31, 20 of the aliens concerned being refused permission to land; none of these refusals were notified by the Immigration Authorities as being solely for medical reasons.

TABLE I - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

	Total	Number subjected to detailed examination by the Medi- cal Inspector	Certificates Issued			
			Unsound Mind or Mentally defective	Undesirable for medical reasons	Inability to support and/ or likely to require medi- cal treatment	Conditionally landed for further medical examination
			(A)	(B)1	(B)2	(C)
a) Total number of Aliens landed at the Port	1,012,280	3,998	-	-	11	-
b) Aliens refused permission to land by Immigration Officer	2,154	20	11	3	6	-
Total Aliens arriving	1,014,434	4,018	11	3	17	-

Number of Vessels attended by the Medical Inspector:- 1447

(Marine Station	1,222)
(Ferry Dock	78)
(Eastern Docks	147)

TABLE 2 - MONTHLY FIGURES OF ALIENS MEDICALLY EXAMINED

Month	Marine Station:	Ferry Dock:	Eastern Docks	Total
January	345	77	30	452
February	145	27	9	181
March	153	34	33	220
April	260	73	66	399
May	296	82	90	468
June	253	70	58	381
July	237	55	103	395
August	172	33	90	295
September	304	36	35	375
October	264	33	50	347
November	203	31	93	327
December	153	16	9	178
TOTAL	2,785	567	666	4,018

5. Nature and amount of Commonwealth Traffic:

(a)

	<u>Arriving Commonwealth Citizens subject to Control</u>	<u>Medically Examined:</u>	<u>Number landed Conditionally</u>	<u>Reports Issued:</u>
1969	89,140	239	NIL	13
1970	105,439	327	NIL	3
1971	104,222	173	NIL	3

(b) Particulars of Reports issued:

Nature of Report	No. of Reports	Refused Entry
A. Suffering from mental disorder	-	-
B. (1) Undesirable for medical reasons	1	1
B. (2) Likely to require major medical treatment	2	1

Refusals stated to be on purely medical grounds
N I L

5. (c) Monthly Figures of Immigrants Medically Examined:

Month	Marine Station:	Ferry Dock:	Eastern Dock:
January	3	4	4
February	6	-	1
March	2	1	1
April	4	-	16
May	1	-	14
June	2	-	5
July	9	2	10
August	8	1	17
September	14	1	3
October	-	1	6
November	11	4	14
December	7	-	1
TOTAL	67	14	92

= 173

6. Accommodation for Medical Inspection and Examination:

Each passenger landing terminal is provided with ample accommodation and facilities for the medical examination of persons referred for such by the Immigration Authorities, the accommodation at the Eastern Docks having been recently provided as part of the Eastern Docks Development Phase I.

Eastern Docks Development Phase II is now in the planning stage and the accommodation at this terminal is to be resited.

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS

(Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died from infectious disease)

Interment as soon as possible by arrangement with local Cemeteries Department and undertaking firm to the requirements of the Medical Officer of Health. Fully equipped mortuary provided by local authority for isolation of bodies if use for such is required.

SECTION XVII - FOOD INSPECTION

(1) Action taken under the Imported Food Regulations, 1968, and other appropriate statutory instruments.
339,198 tons 3 cwt. of various foodstuffs were recorded as having entered through the port during
the year

Area of Origin	Article and weight (tons. cwt.) of foodstuffs inspected						
	Fruit and * Vegetables	Meat *	Fish *	Dairy Produce Fats Etc.	Confectionery	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
Western Europe	182,668 - 6	23,597 - 8	5,905 - 9	15,584 - 7	727 - 17	3,174 - 17	231 658 - 4
Eastern Europe	13,543 - 1	6,413 - 12	-	6,939 - 14	189 - 11	62 - 18	27,148 - 16
Mediterranean	52,027 - 6	-	76 - 1	2 - 5	0 - 12	224 - 2	52,330 - 6
North Africa	24,384 - 3	-	7 - 17	-	-	-	24,392 - 0
South Africa	226 - 12	-	-	-	-	-	226 - 12
America	2,456 - 16	384 - 17	81 - 9	-	40 - 4	19 - 4	2,982 - 10
Australasia	-	62 - 8	-	-	-	-	62 - 8
Far East	41 - 17	-	260 - 0	60 - 0	15 - 10	-	377 - 7
Greenland	-	-	20 - 0	-	-	-	20 - 0
TOTAL	275,348 - 1	30,458 - 5	6,350 - 16	22,586 6	973 - 14	3,481 - 1	339,198 - 3

The following imported foodstuffs were condemned during the year and disposed of under the supervision of the Department's Inspectors.

Country of Origin	Tons.	Cwt.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	
Spain	15	13	1	27	Fruit
	5	17	0	0	Onions
	1	12	1	9	Tomatoes
		13	0	12	Canned Fruit
		1	0	0	Chestnuts
Egypt	7	5	2	8	Potatoes
Cyprus	4	17	2	18	Fruit
Israel	1	3	2	0	Onions
		11	2	18	Canned Fruit
			1	10	Lemon Juice
Canary Islands ...	1	7	3	25	Tomatoes
	1	0	0	0	Onions
Ivory Coast		11	2	12	Fruit
France		5	0	23	Meat
		3	1	17	Shell Fish
Belgium		5	0	0	Vegetables
Portugal		2	2	6	Canned Fish
			3	6	Canned Fruit
Italy		3	0	0	Vegetables
Turkey			1	8	Lemon Juice
Czechoslovakia ...				10	Canned Meat
TOTAL	41	15	2	13	

The reasons for condemnation were the normal; as will be seen from the table, fruit and vegetables comprised the major portion of the total, over-ripeness, decomposition, over-heating and heavy weather damage being the main causes of condemnation.

2. The Imported Food Regulations, 1968

It was mentioned in my last year's Report that the facilities at the Western Docks for the inspection of imported foodstuffs, particularly of meat carried in road transport vehicles, were totally inadequate and during the year under review the matter was again pursued with the British Rail Authorities. In view of the isolated shipments of meat received through the Western Docks, the Rail Authorities considered that the expenses necessary to provide proper facilities were disproportionately excessive. In view of the fact that H.M. Customs would not allow consignments to be removed from the Western to the Eastern Docks or to Importer's premises for clearance, the Agents dealing with the importation of the occasional meat consignment were advised that further importations through this point could only be removed to an approved inland clearance depot.

(a) Regulations 12 and 13: Official Certificates:

Summary of action taken:-

(i) 15 tons Canned Ham and Pork Loins (Poland): Absence of Official Certificate in approved form: after representations from importers and further detailed enquiries decided that omission was bona fide error, and consignment was allowed entry upon receipt of undertaking that negotiations were proceeding for alteration in form of accompanying certificates.

(ii) 9 tons 19cwt. Canned Corned Beef (Argentine): Official Certificates did not bear recognised establishment number - Exported.

(iii) 800 cartons Frozen Boneless Beef (alleged France): Although the consignment was correctly labelled and certified, markings on the meat indicated in the opinion of this Authority and of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that it was not of French origin - Exported.

Considerable vigilance is necessary in the examination of meat and meat products in association with accompanying Official Certificates to ensure authenticity: on at least one other occasion certainly and on one other perhaps the meat was from one country and accompanied by Official Certificates from another.

Needless to say the consignments were rejected in these cases and these serious contraventions of the Regulations and of the licence issued under the Importation of Carcasses and Animal Products Order 1954 as amended, were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for investigation in co-operation with the foreign Authorities.

(b) Sampling:

A total of 185 samples were submitted for laboratory examination; 112 for chemical composition etc., 70 bacteriologically and 3 both chemically and bacteriologically.

24 of the samples submitted for bacteriological examination were of boneless beef taken at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. In only one sample was salmonella isolated, subsequently identified as salmonella panama.

The samples were generally very satisfactory although slightly adverse reports were received in respect of some cooked pork loins, the bacterial count being higher than desirable; specific pathogenic organisms were absent. Samples from subsequent consignments have been reported to be satisfactory.

